



PARASHURAMA

SIXTH INCarnation OF VISHNU

Vol 764 |

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PARASHURAMA



PARASHURAMA WAS BORN THE SON OF RISHI JAMADAGNI AND RENUKA. BUT IT WAS A BIRTH UNDER STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES.

HIS GREAT-GRANDFATHER,
GADHI, WAS A GOOD KING.

WE ARE
FORTUNATE THAT
OUR KING IS
STRONG AND
KIND.

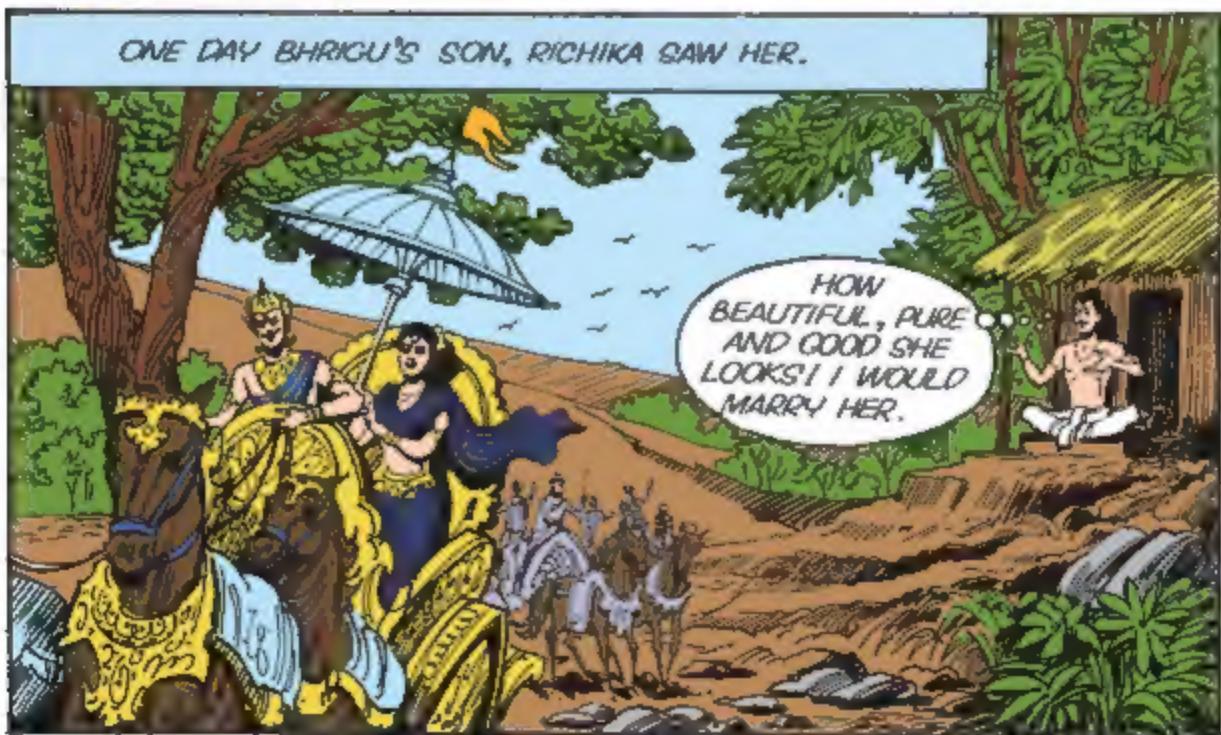
YES.
AS LONG AS
HE RULES,
WE NEED
FEAR NONE.

GADHI HAD A DAUGHTER CALLED
SATYAVATI, BUT NO SON.



ONE DAY BHRIGU'S SON, RICHIKA SAW HER.

HOW
BEAUTIFUL, PURE
AND GOOD SHE
LOOKS! I WOULD
MARRY HER.



HE WENT TO HER FATHER.

I HAVE
COME TO YOU
SEEKING YOUR
DAUGHTER'S
HAND.

I AM HONoured,
GREAT SAGE.
BUT...

...YOU WILL HAVE
TO BRING A DOWRY
OF 1000 BROWN HORSES.
IT IS THE CUSTOM
IN OUR
FAMILY.

CAN YOU?

IS THAT ALL?
IT SHOULD
NOT BE VERY
DIFFICULT.

SO RICHIKI GAVE CADHI THE THOUSAND BROWN HORSES...

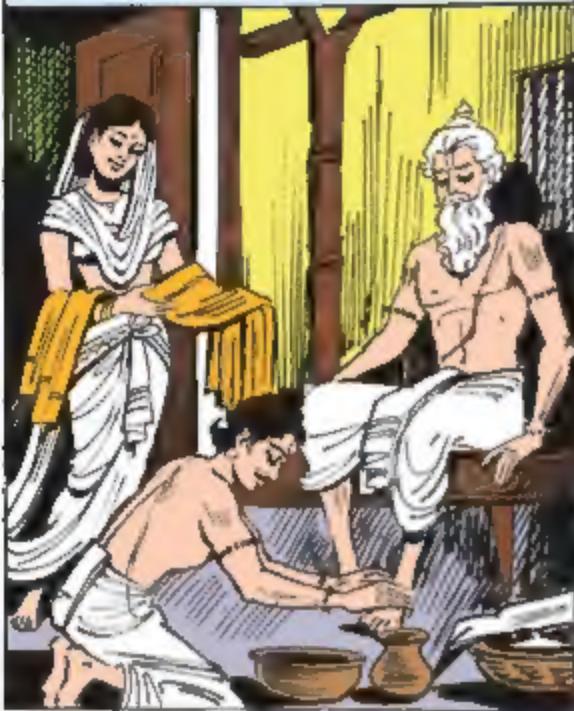


...AND WAS
MARRIED TO
SATYAVATI.



ONE DAY BHIRGU CAME TO VISIT HIS SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.

THEY LOOKED AFTER HIS NEEDS WITH AFFECTION.

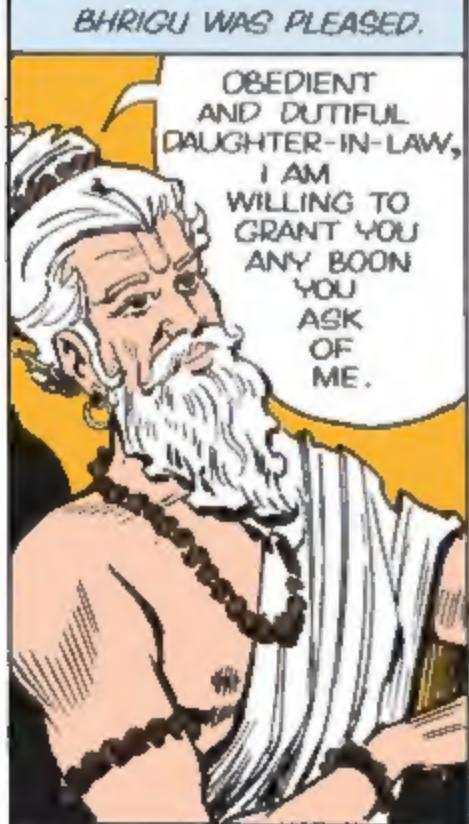


I AM INDEED FORTUNATE IN MY CHILDREN.



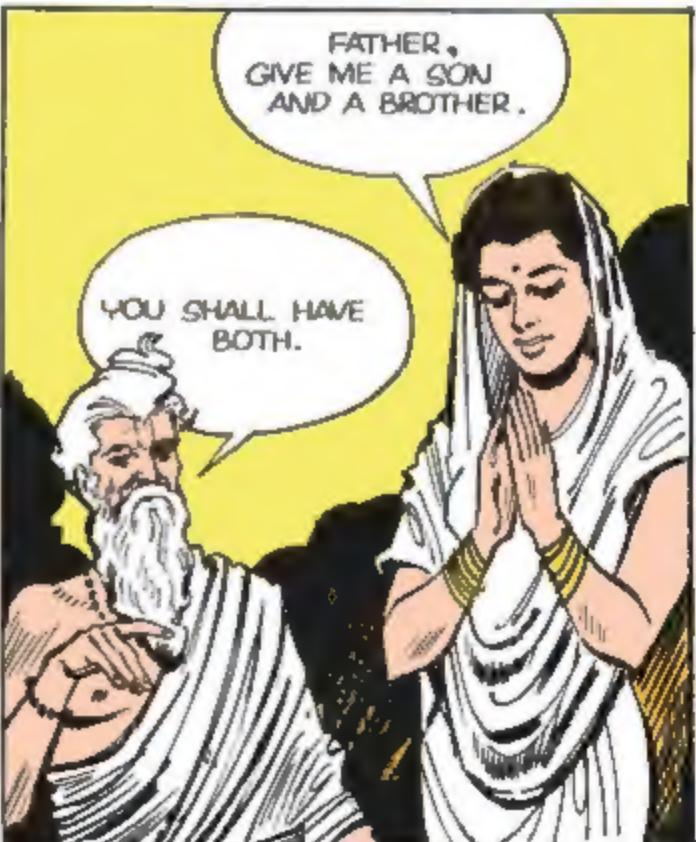
BHRIGU WAS PLEASED.

OBEDIENT AND DUTIFUL DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, I AM WILLING TO GRANT YOU ANY BOON YOU ASK OF ME.

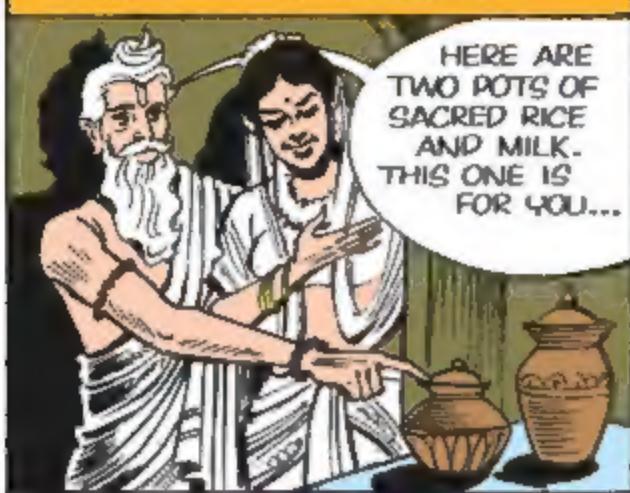


FATHER, GIVE ME A SON AND A BROTHER.

YOU SHALL HAVE BOTH.



THEN HE TOOK SATYAVATI ASIDE.



HERE ARE
TWO POTS OF
SACRED RICE
AND MILK.
THIS ONE IS
FOR YOU...



...AND
THAT ONE FOR YOUR
MOTHER.

WHEN
BHRIGU
LEFT,
SATYAVATI
PICKED
THE POTS
AND
ALONG
WITH
HER
HUSBAND
WENT
TO HER
MOTHER



WHEN SHE REACHED —



MOTHER! MOTHER!
I HAVE TWO POTS OF
SACRED RICE AND MILK,
WHICH WILL GIVE US
A MIGHTY SON
EACH.

YOUR
MARRIAGE TO
RICHIKHA HAS INDEED
BROUGHT US
GOOD FORTUNE.

BUT HER MOTHER TOOK THE POT MEANT FOR SATYAWATI AND...

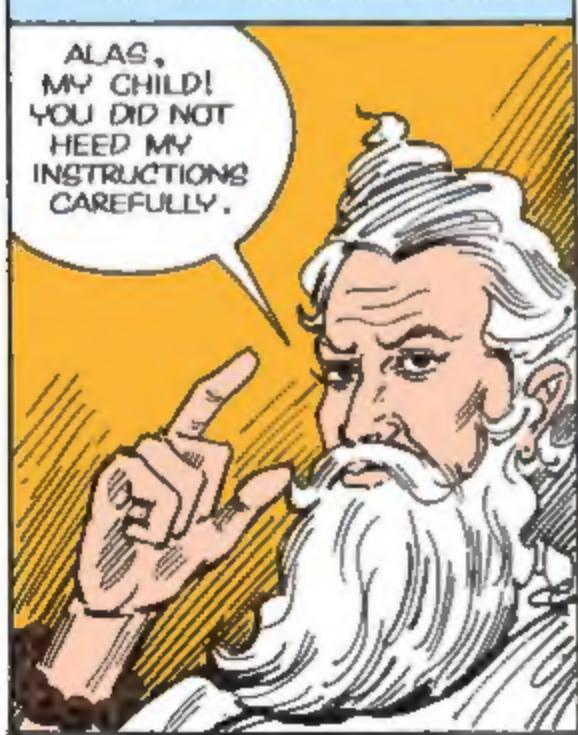


...SATYAVATI TOOK THE ONE MEANT FOR HER MOTHER.



SAGE BHIRGU IN HIS SPIRITUAL VISION SAW THE EXCHANGE.

ALAS,
MY CHILD!
YOU DID NOT
HEED MY
INSTRUCTIONS
CAREFULLY.



NOW,
YOUR MOTHER'S
SON THOUGH A
KSHATRIYA, WILL
TAKE TO THE
LIFE OF AN
ASCETIC.





AS JAMADAGNI GREW UP, HIS DEVOTION TO THE STUDY OF THE VEDAS ALSO INCREASED AND HE SOON MASTERED THEM.



NOW I SHALL ENTER THE LIFE OF A HOUSEHOLDER. I AM READY FOR IT.

SO HE MARRIED THE CHASTE RENUKA.



MOST OF THE KSHATRIVAS OF THOSE DAYS WERE VICIOUS. THEY WERE BECOMING A MENACE AND A BURDEN TO MOTHER EARTH. THE WORST OF THEM WAS KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA, THE 1000-ARMED KING OF THE HAIHARA TRIBE.



MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN TREMBLED WITH FEAR WHENEVER KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA RODE INTO A CITY IN HIS INVINCIBLE GOLDEN CHARIOT.



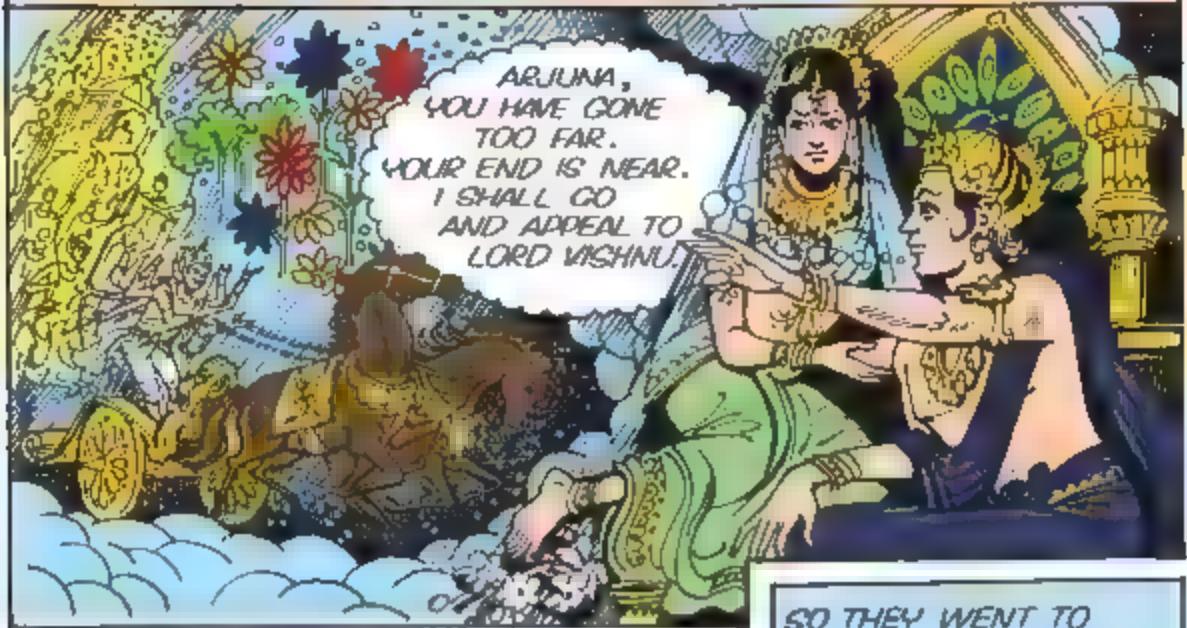
HAI HAI MY GOOD MEN,
TAKE WHAT PLEASES YOU
AND BURN
THE REST.

SUDDENLY HE HAD AN IDEA.

WHY WASTE OUR TIME
HERE WITH THESE PUNY
MORTALS. LET US RIDE
INTO THE CITY OF INDRA,
KING OF THE GODS.

SO OFF THEY
RODE INTO THE
CITY OF INDRA
AND TO HIS
PRIVATE GARDEN...

...WHERE INDRA WAS RESTING WITH HIS WIFE, SACHI.



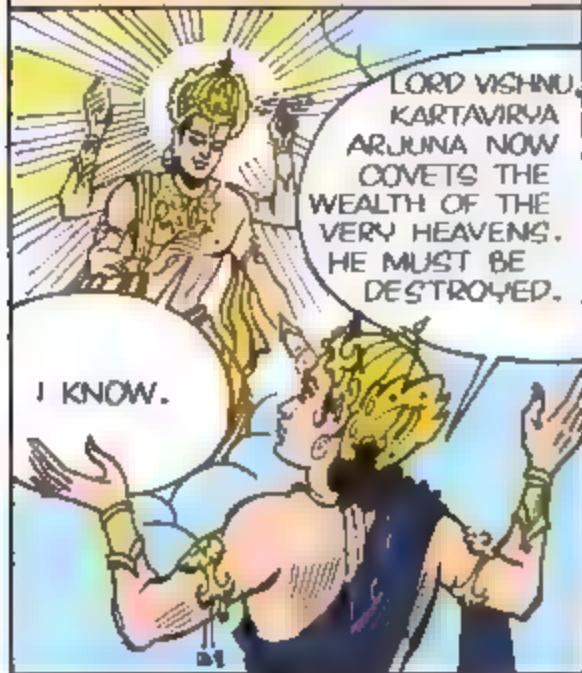
IN THE MEANWHILE, THE SAINTS AND SAGES OF THE DAY COULD NO LONGER BEAR THE VIOLATIONS OF THEIR PENANCES AND SACRIFICES BY KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA.



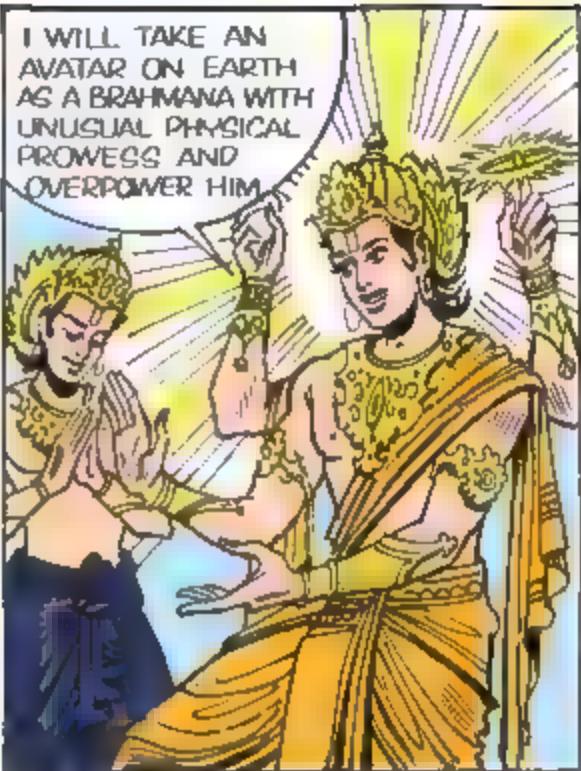
SO THEY WENT TO
LORD VISHNU.



AS SOON AS THE SAGES HAD LEFT,
INDRA ENTERED.



I WILL TAKE AN AVATAR ON EARTH AS A BRAHMANA WITH UNUSUAL PHYSICAL PROWESS AND OVERPOWER HIM.



MEANWHILE FIVE SONS WERE BORN TO RENUKA AND JAMADAGNI.

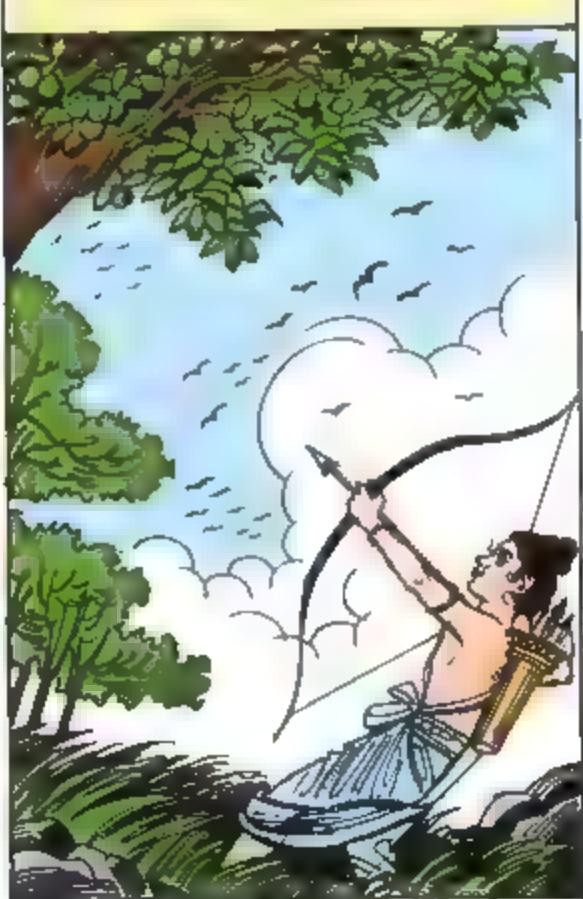


THE FIFTH AND YOUNGEST WAS RAMA WHO WAS REALLY VISHNU REBORN TO FULFIL HIS PROMISE TO INDRA AND THE SAGES.



AS A CHILD RAMA WAS FOND OF PHYSICAL EXERCISE AND...

...PLAYING WITH WEAPONS.



RAMA SOON GREW UP
INTO A STURDY YOUTH.
ONE DAY-

FATHER, I WISH
TO GO TO THE
GANDHAMADANA
MOUNTAINS AND
BY AUSTERE
PENANCES
GAIN LORD
SHIVA'S
FAVOUR.



RAMA WENT AND SAT
IN MEDITATION AND
UNDERWENT SEVERE
PENANCES.



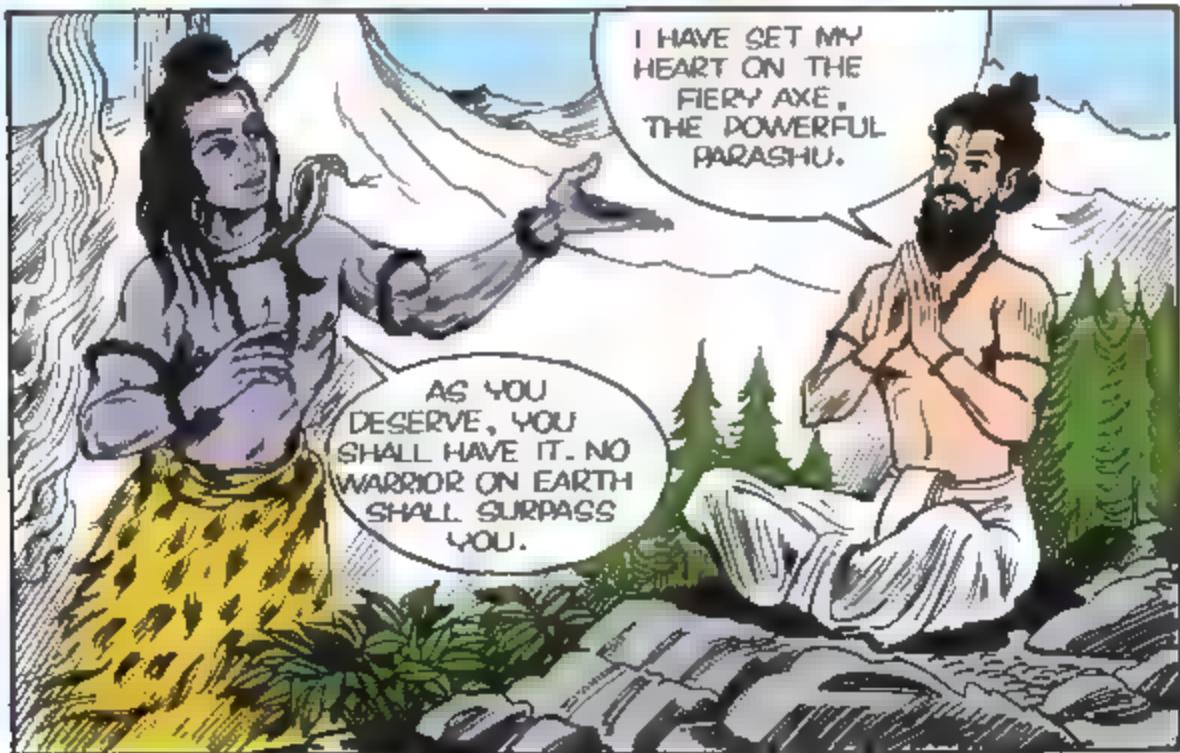
AT LAST SHIVA APPEARED
TO HIM.

YOU HAVE PLEASED
ME BY YOUR
DEVOTION.
WHAT IS IT
THAT YOU
DESIRE?



I HAVE SET MY
HEART ON THE
FIERY AXE,
THE POWERFUL
PARASHU.

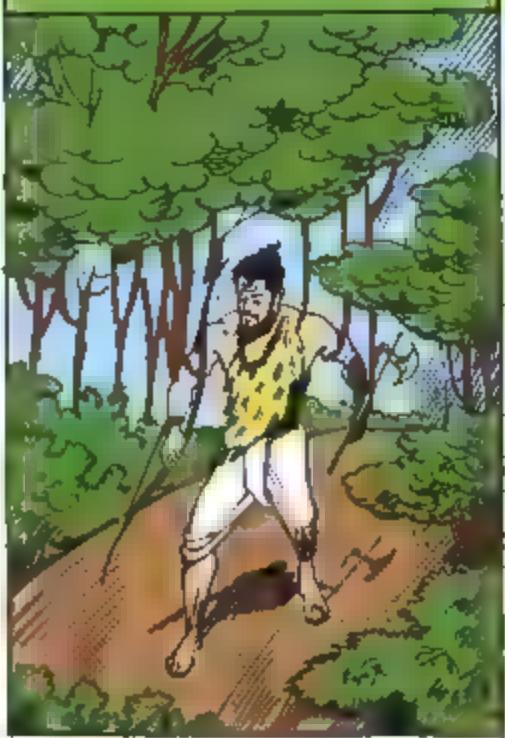
AS YOU
DESERVE, YOU
SHALL HAVE IT. NO
WARRIOR ON EARTH
SHALL SURPASS
YOU.



AND FROM THAT DAY RAMA CAME TO BE KNOWN AS PARASHURAMA.



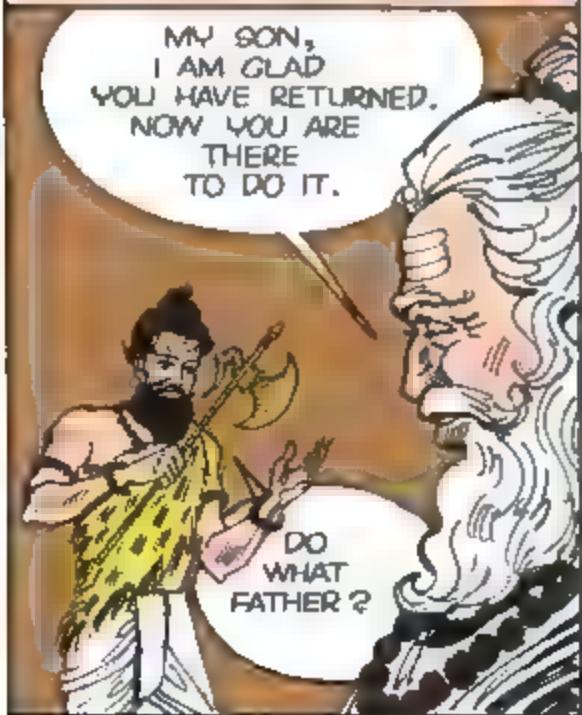
TAKING HIS AXE, PARASHURAMA RETURNED TO HIS FATHER'S ASHRAM.



JAMADAGNI WAS OVERJOYED TO SEE HIM.

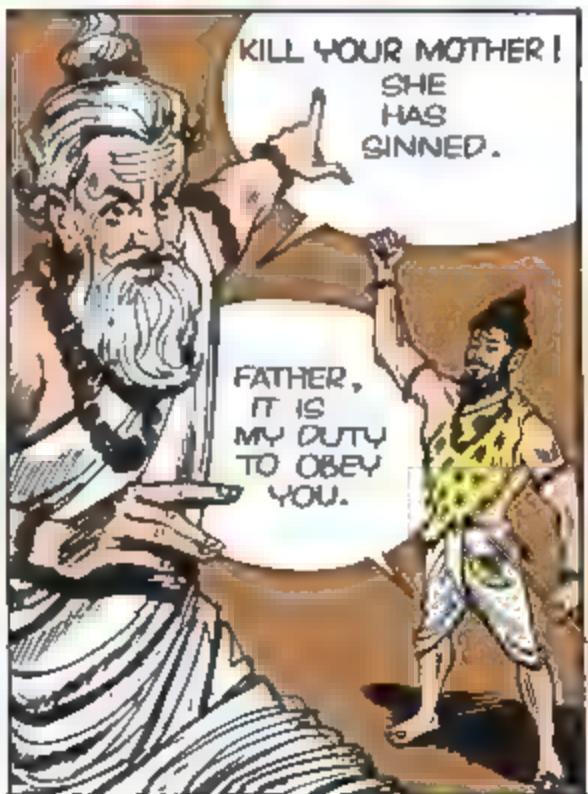
MY SON,
I AM GLAD
YOU HAVE RETURNED.
NOW YOU ARE
THERE
TO DO IT.

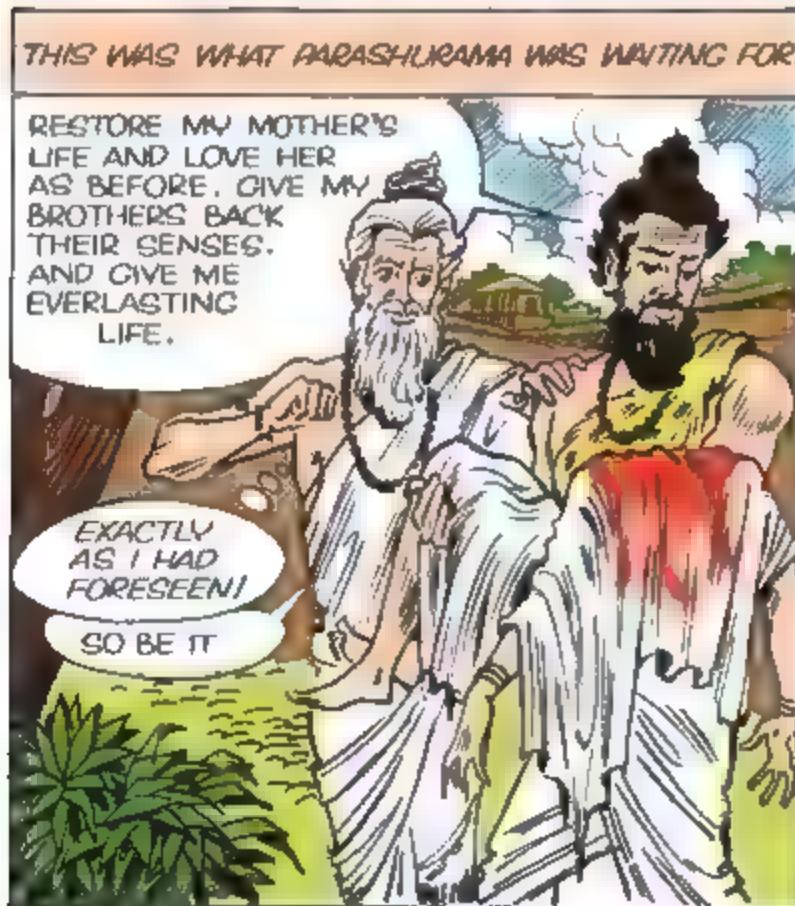
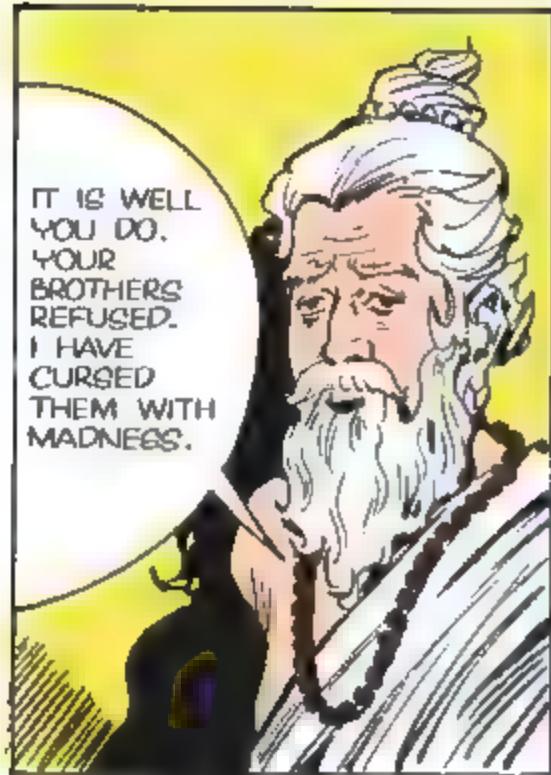
DO
WHAT
FATHER?



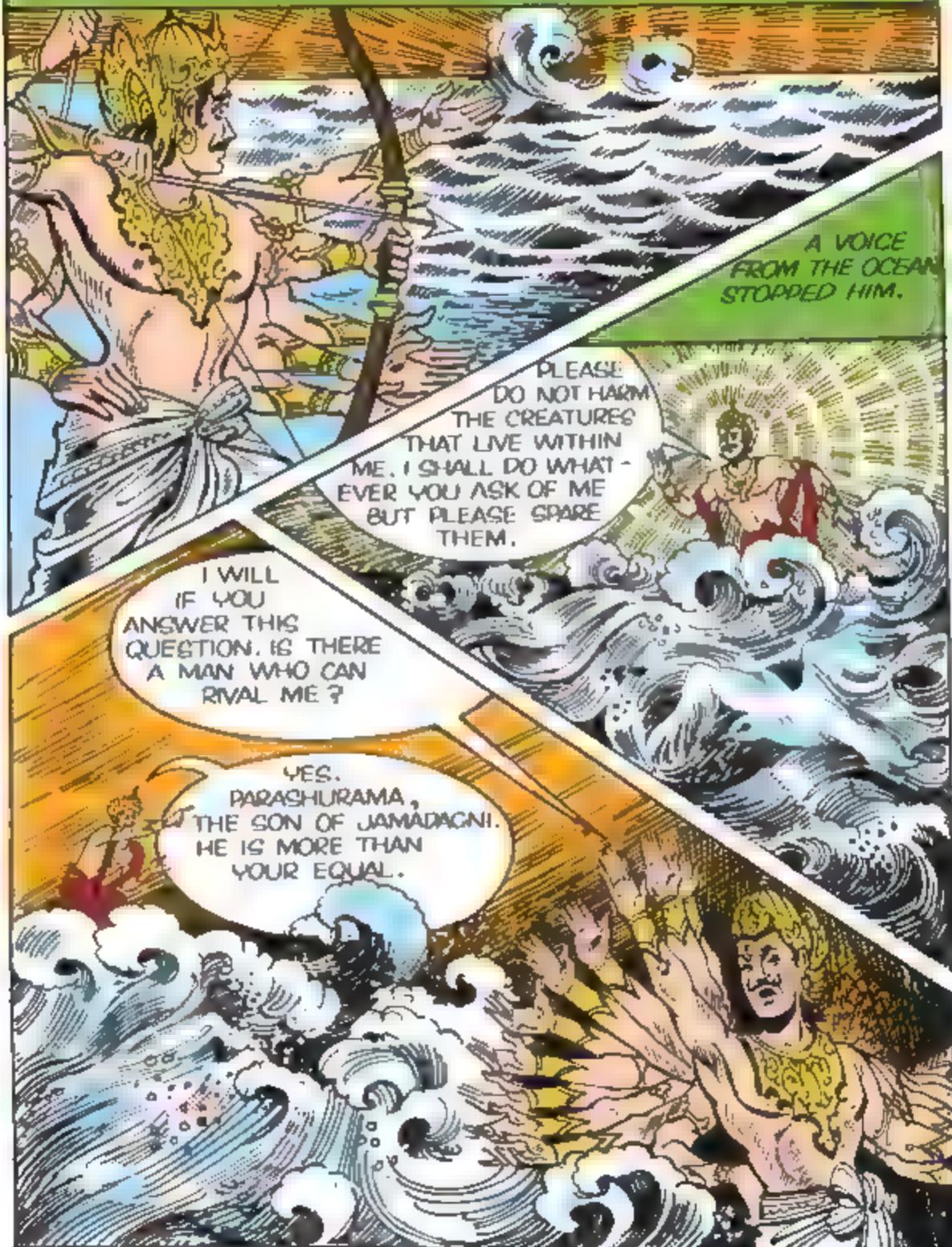
KILL YOUR MOTHER!
SHE HAS SINNED.

FATHER,
IT IS
MY DUTY
TO OBEY
YOU.

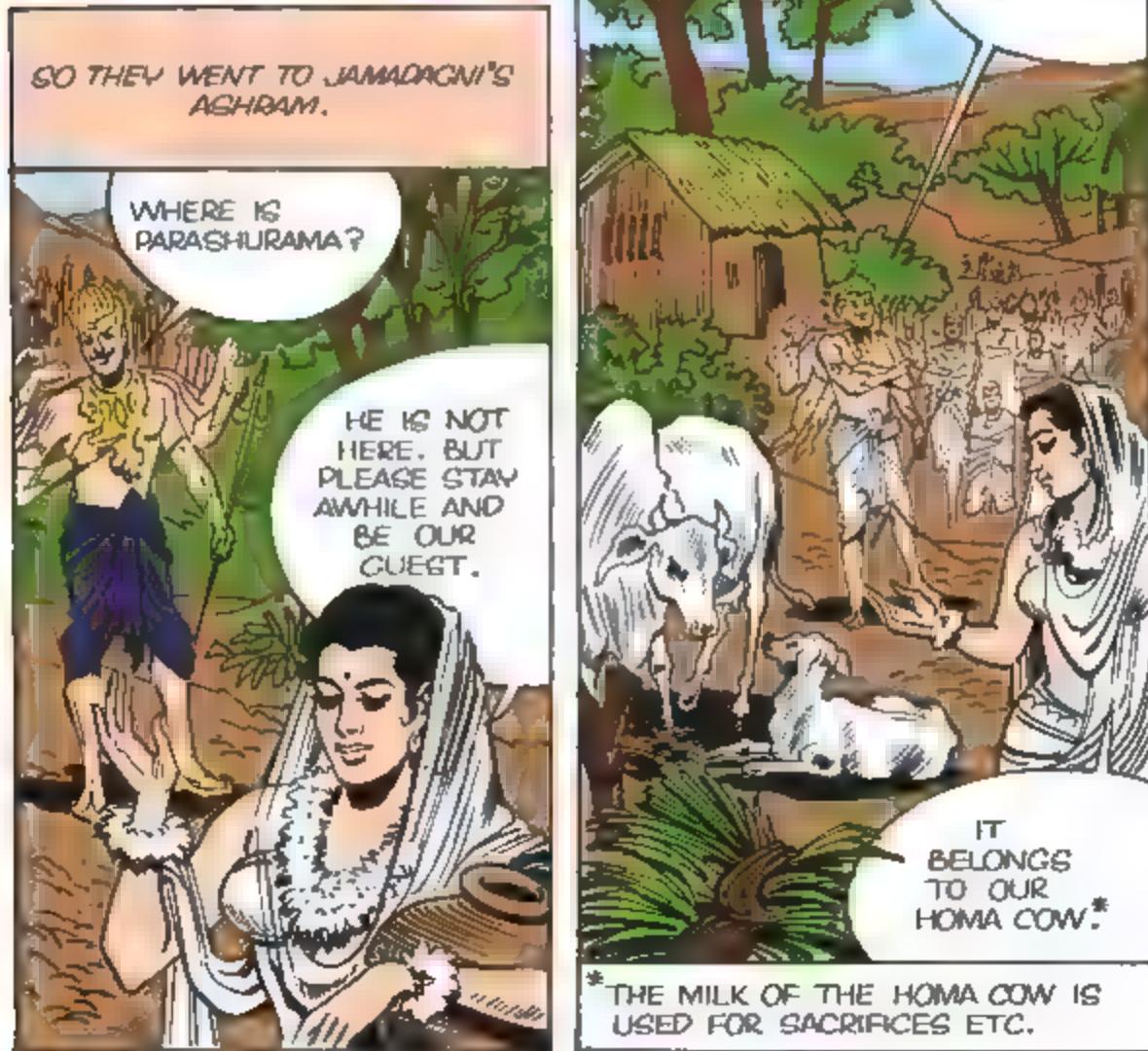
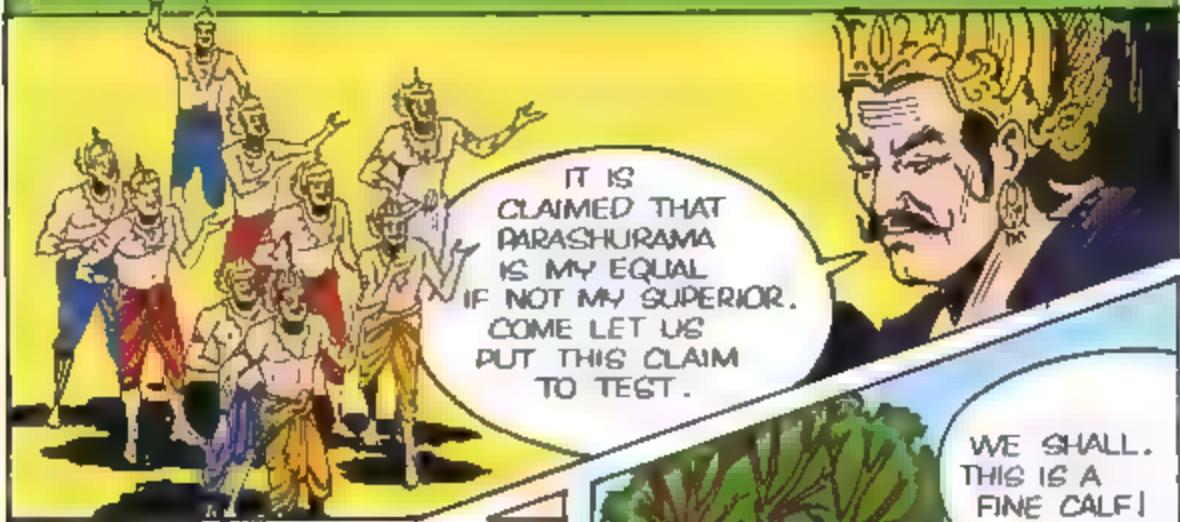




MEANWHILE KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA CONTINUED IN HIS TYRANNY. ONE DAY WHILE PACING ARROGANTLY ON THE SEASHORE, HE BEGAN SHOOTING ARROWS INTO THE WATERS OF THE OCEAN.



KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA WAS FURIOUS. HE CALLED HIS SONS TO HIM.



THAT NIGHT THE SONS OF ARJUNA STOLE THE CALF AND MADE OFF WITH IT.



IN THE MORNING WHEN JAMADAGNI CAME OUT
OF THE ASHRAM —

JUST THEN PARASHURAMA
RETURNED.
HE SAW THEM.



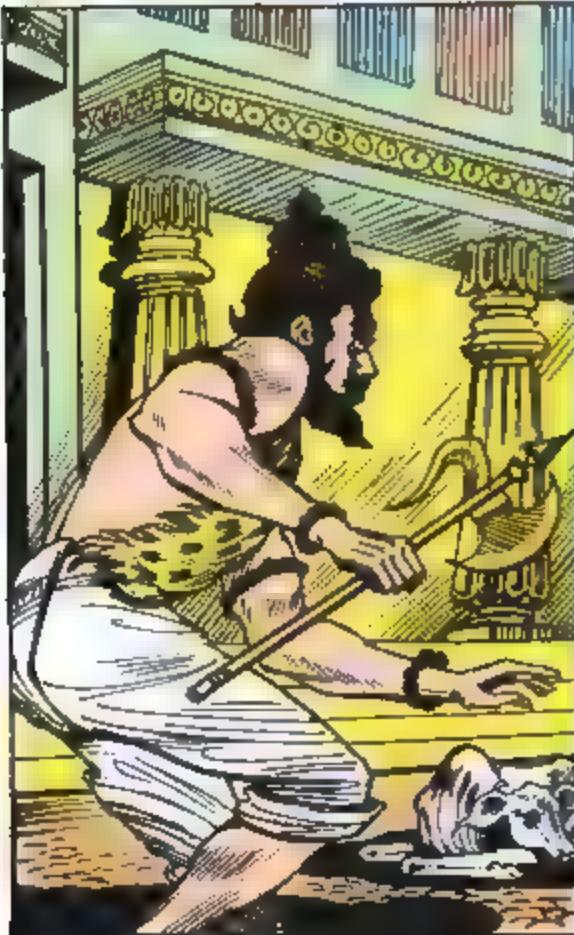
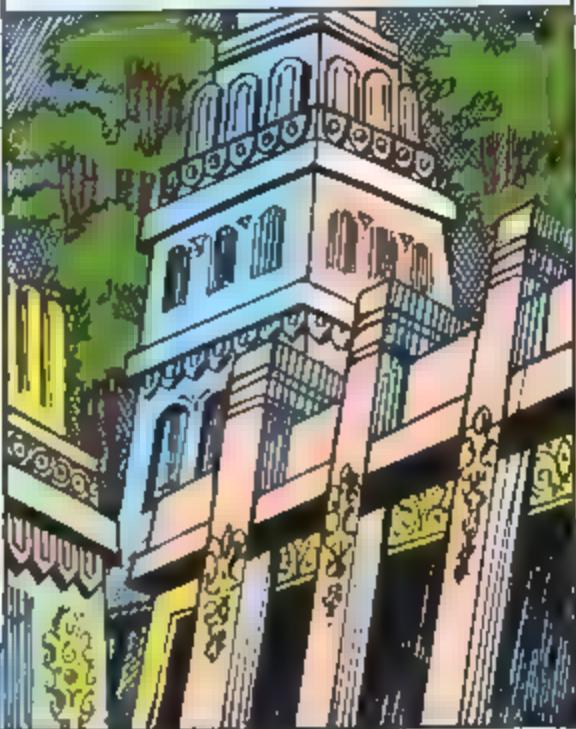
WHAT HAS
HAPPENED TO HER,
FATHER? WHY IS SHE SO
SAD? WHERE IS HER
CALF? WHY ARE THEY
SEPARATED?



JAMADAGNI TOLD HIM
THE WHOLE STORY.



THEN PARASHURAMA TOOK HIS AXE
AND RUSHED TO THE PALACE OF
KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA.



WHEN HE SAW THE HELPLESS CALF,
HE COULD NOT CONTROL HIS ANGER.
HE RUSHED INTO KARTAVIRYA
ARJUNA'S BEDROOM.



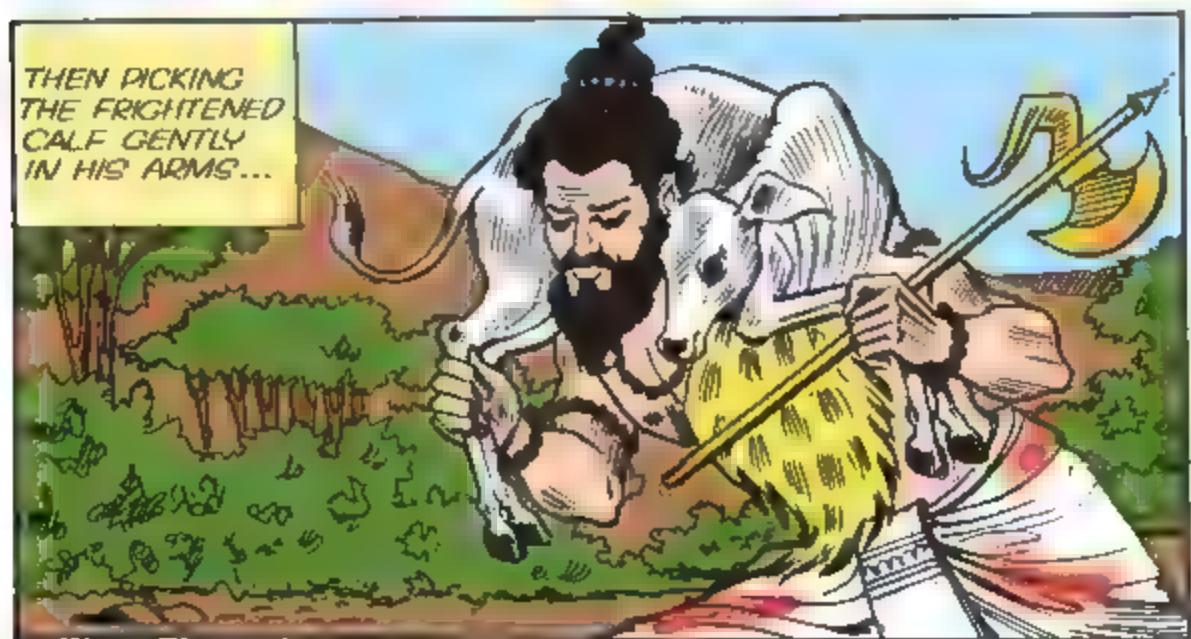
DREADFUL COMBAT ENSUED IN WHICH PARASHURAMA HACKED OFF EACH ONE OF KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA'S THOUSAND ARMS AND...



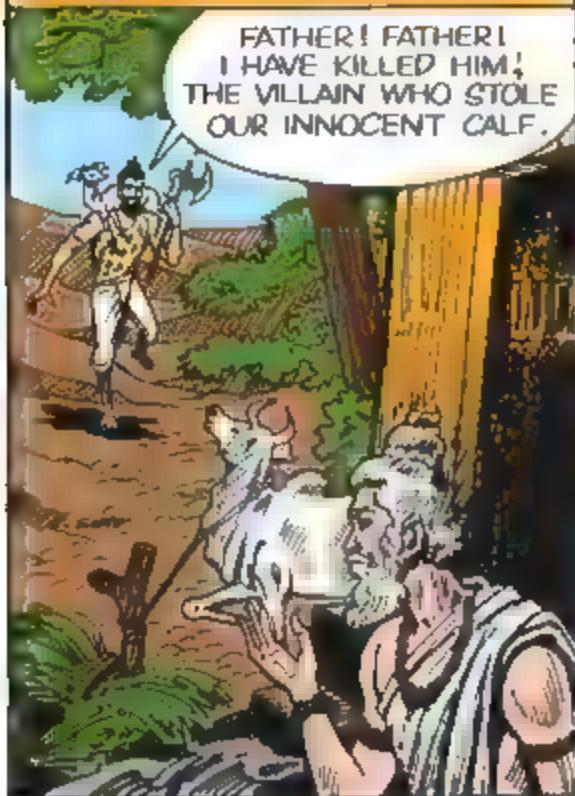
...GLEW HIM.



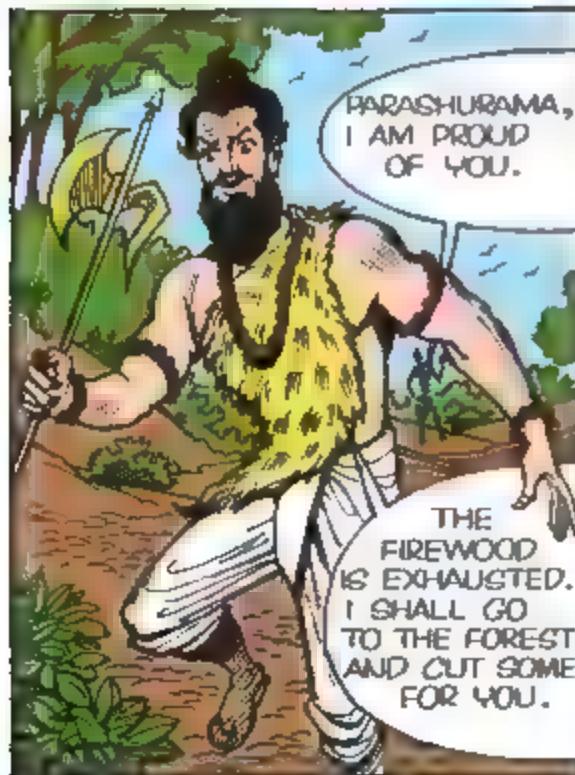
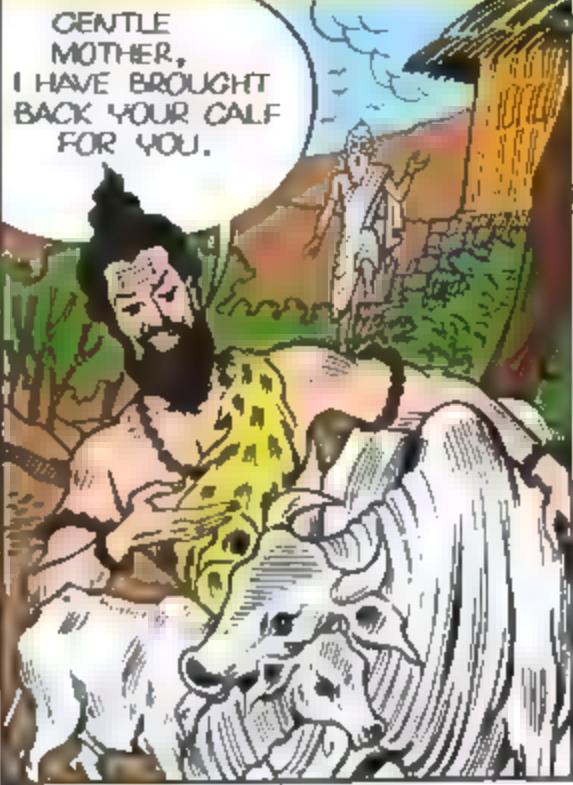
THEN PICKING THE FRIGHTENED CALF GENTLY IN HIS ARMS...



...HE MADE HIS WAY BACK TO HIS FATHER'S ASHRAM.



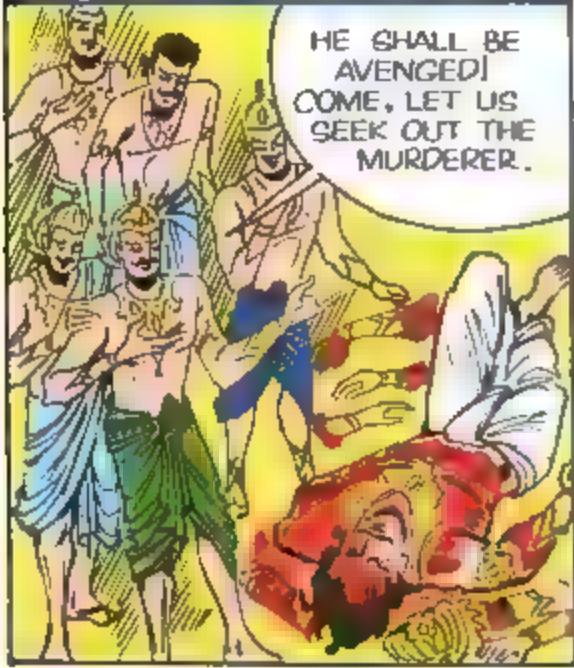
THEN THEY WENT TO THE COW AND -



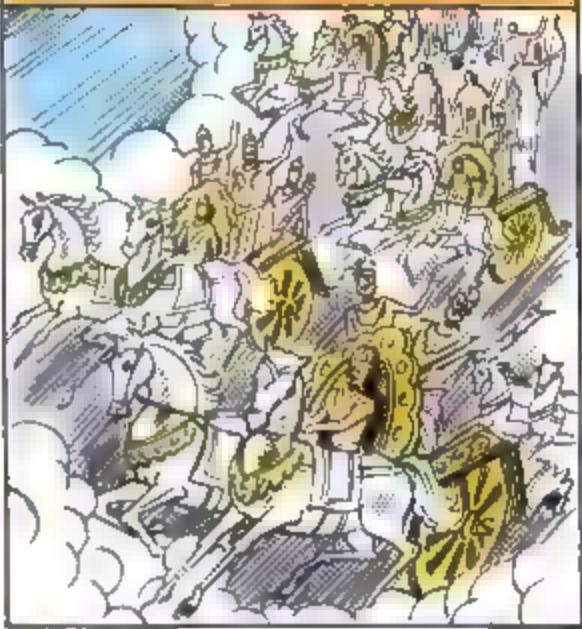
IN THE MEANWHILE --



THEY WERE FURIOUS.



THEY MOUNTED THEIR CHARIOTS
AND CHARGED OUT OF THE PALACE.



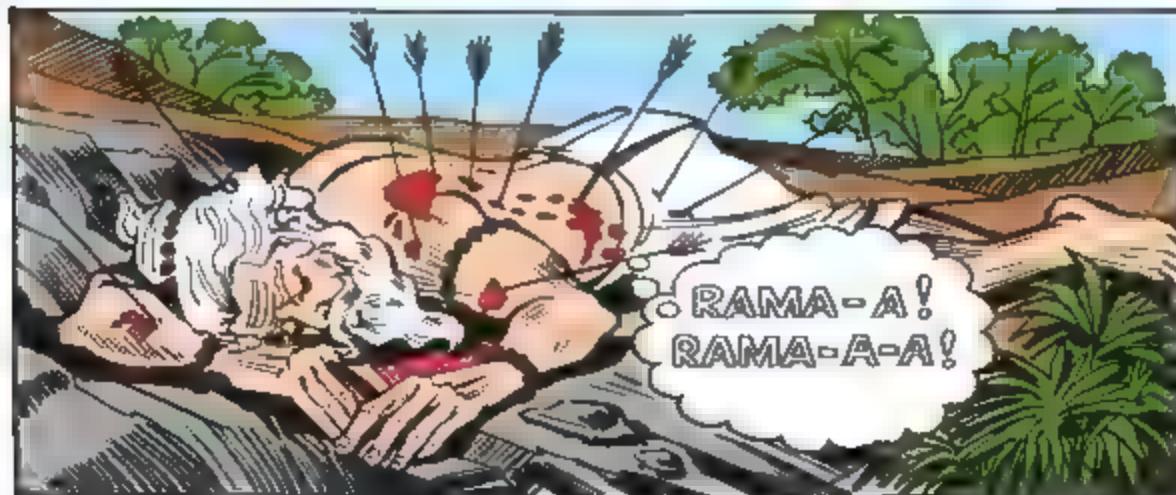
WHEN THEY REACHED THE ASHRAM,
JAMADAGNI WAS DEEP IN MEDITATION.



THEY ATTACKED JAMADAGNI AND SHOT ARROWS AT HIM FROM ALL DIRECTIONS.



THEY LEFT HIM DYING AND RODE AWAY.





JUST THEN
PARASHURAMA
RETURNED
FROM THE
FOREST.



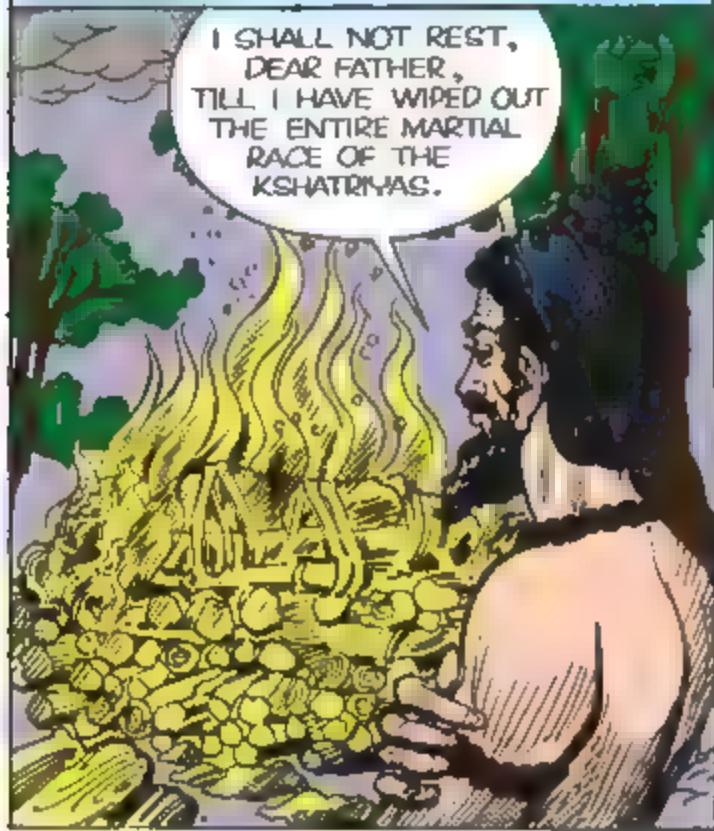
FATHER!
FATHER! IT IS
MY FAULT THAT
YOU HAVE BEEN
SHOT DOWN LIKE A
STAG BY THE MERCiless
ARROWS OF THE MEAN
SONS OF ARJUNA.



WITH
WHAT FACE
WILL THEY RETURN
TO THEIR FRIENDS
AND SERVANTS
AFTER COMMITTING
SUCH A HEINous
CRIME?



AS PARASHURAMA CREMATED HIS FATHER'S BODY, HE TOOK A VOW.



WHEN THE LAST EMBERS DIED OUT, HE RAISED HIS AXE AND BEGAN HIS SELF-IMPOSED TASK.



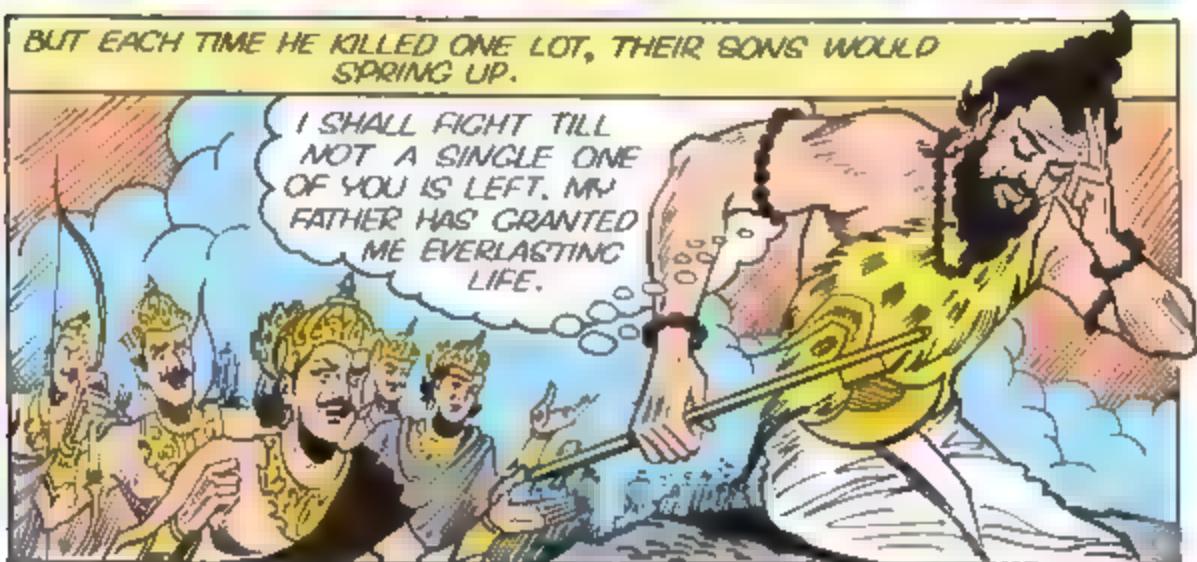
KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA'S SONS WERE THE FIRST TO BE WIPE OUT.



THEN ONE BY ONE HE MASSACRED ALL THE KSHATRIYAS ON EARTH.



BUT EACH TIME HE KILLED ONE LOT, THEIR SONS WOULD SPRING UP.



THUS PARASHURAMA PATIENTLY CONTINUED WIPEING OUT TWENTY-ONE GENERATIONS OF KSHATRIYAS.



BUT ALAS! HE KILLED WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION BOTH THE EVIL AND THE GOOD KSHATRIYAS.

I HAVE HARMED NONE. MY SUBJECTS ARE HAPPY. WHY DO YOU WANT TO KILL ME AND DEPRIVE THEM OF MY PROTECTION? ?



BUT PARASHURAMA WAS RELENTLESS.

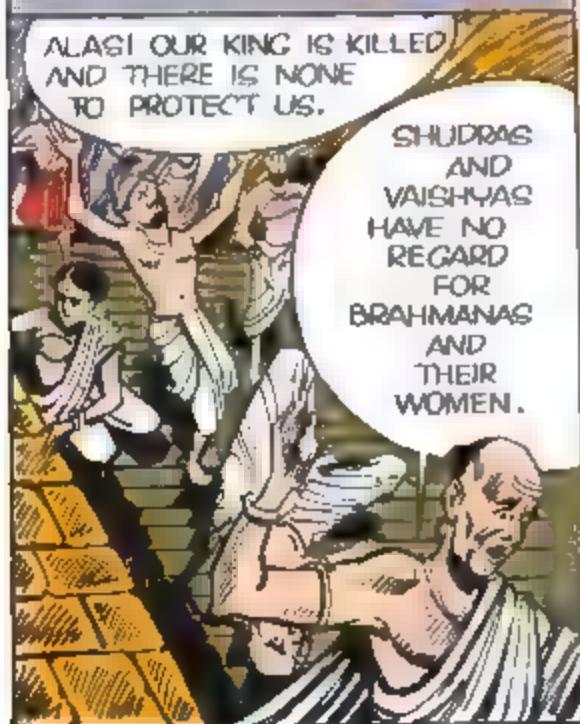
ONE OF YOUR CASTE MURDERED MY FATHER WHILE HE WAS DEFENCELESS. SO YOU SHALL DIE.



SOON THERE WERE NO STRONG GOOD MEN TO PROTECT THE GOOD ON EARTH.

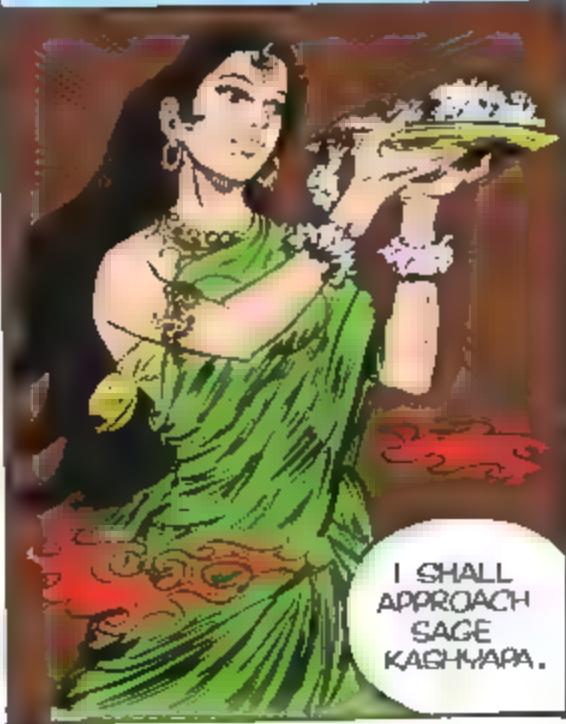
ALAGI OUR KING IS KILLED AND THERE IS NONE TO PROTECT US.

SHUDRAS AND VAISHYAS HAVE NO REGARD FOR BRAHMANAS AND THEIR WOMEN.



MOTHER EARTH FELT THAT IT WAS TIME TO INTERVENE.

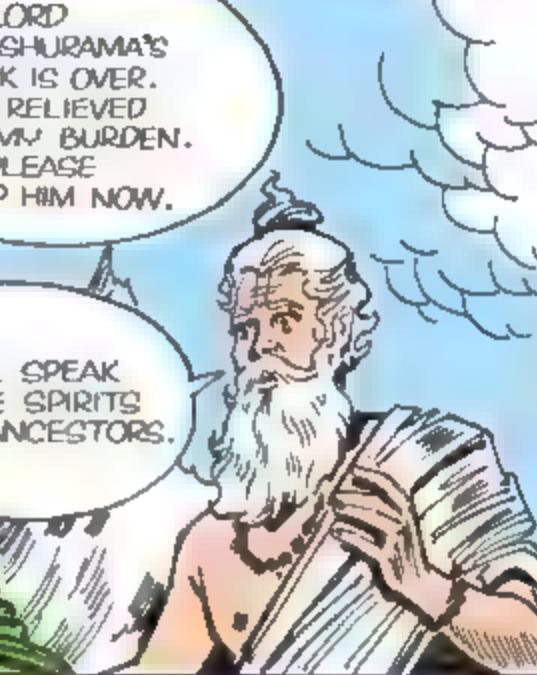
I SHALL APPROACH SAGE KASHYAPA.



SO MOTHER EARTH WENT TO KASHMARA.



LORD
PARASHURAMA'S
WORK IS OVER.
I AM RELIEVED
OF MY BURDEN.
PLEASE
STOP HIM NOW.



I WILL SPEAK
TO THE SPIRITS
OF HIS ANCESTORS.

KASHMARA BY HIS SPIRITUAL POWERS,
CALLED FORTH THE SPIRIT OF RICHIKA.



PARASHURAMA'S
MISSION IS OVER.
IT IS NOW
TIME FOR HIM
TO DESIST.



SO SHALL IT BE.
HE WILL OBEY
HIS ANCESTORS.

AND RICHKA KEPT HIS PROMISE. WHEN PARASHURAMA WAS ABOUT TO RAISE HIS AXE ON A KING OF THE TWENTY-SECOND GENERATION OF KSHATRIYAS -



YOU HAVE
AVENGED YOUR FATHER
MANY TIMES OVER.
MOTHER EARTH HAS BEEN
RELIEVED OF ALL EVIL,
KSHATRIYAS.
YOUR WORK
IS DONE.



PARASHURAMA THEN HELD A GREAT SACRIFICE WHERE HE DISTRIBUTED ALL HIS WEALTH TO THE BRAHMANAS.



FTER EVERYTHING HAD BEEN GIVEN AWAY, DRONA, THE SON OF SAGE BHARADWAJ, CAME TO HIM.

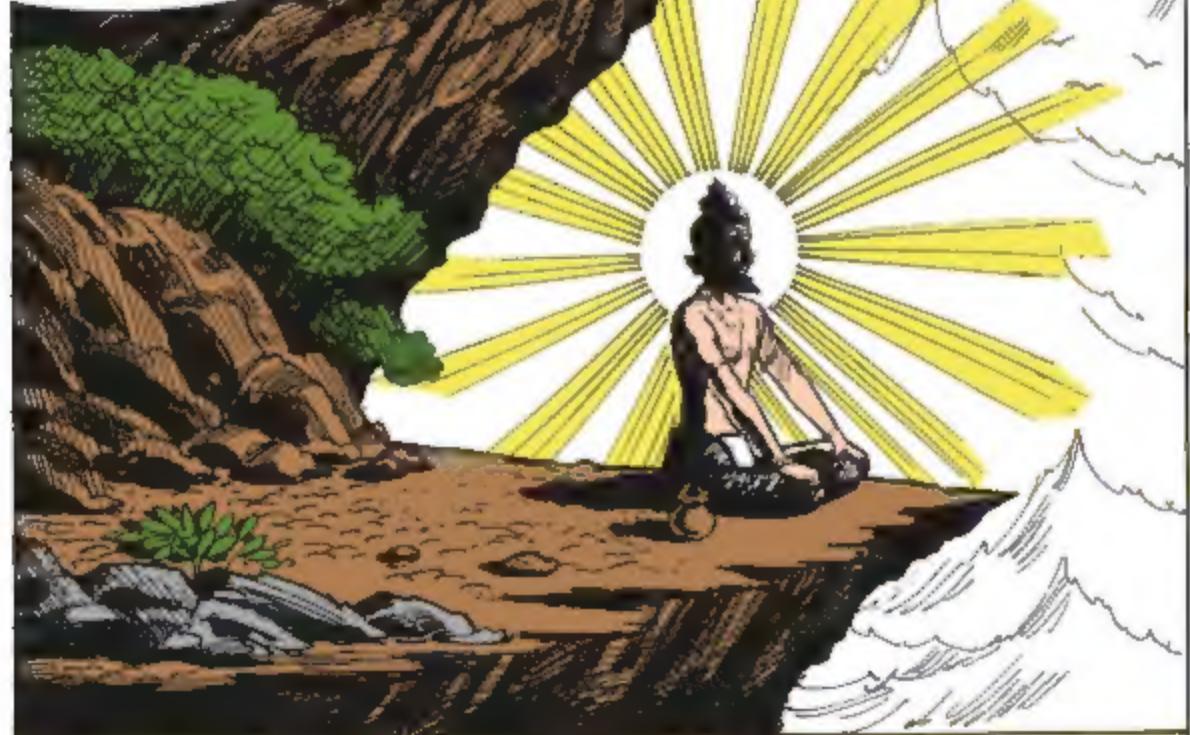
ALAS! YOU COME LATE. ALL THAT I HAVE NOW IS THIS BODY AND MY WEAPONS. I CAN GIVE YOU EITHER, AS YOU CHOOSE.

I SHALL RECEIVE THE WEAPONS WITH THE MYSTERIES OF THEIR USE.





GENERAL DRONA GAVE DRAKA ALL HIS WEAPONS AND INITIATED HIM INTO THE MYSTERIES OF THEIR USE. DRONA BECAME UNEQUALLED AMONG MEN FOR HIS PROMISES IN THE SCIENCE OF ARMS.



AND PARASHURAMA, HAVING THUS RID HIMSELF OF ALL HIS WORLDLY BURDENS, RETIRED TO THE CRESTS IN THE MAHENDRA MOUNTAINS TO SPEND THE REST OF HIS DAYS, ENGAGED IN PRACTISING THE SEVEREST OF PENANCES.

PARASHURAMA

It was a time when the earth was ravaged with violence and bloodshed. The Kshatriya kings had forgotten their duty to rule with compassion. Instead, they subdued the people by unleashing a reign of brutal terror. At such a time the sixth incarnation of Vishnu was born. Parashurama, axe-wielding warrior-saint, strode across the age to destroy evil and liberate good.

OTHER ACK EPICS & MYTHOLOGY:

DRONA



KARNA



VISHWAMITRA



ABHIMANYU



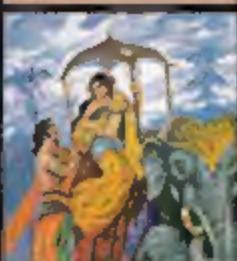
ALSO LOOK FOR:

VELU THAMPI



BRAVEHEARTS

VASAVADATTA



INDIAN CLASSICS

THE LEARNED PANDIT



FABLES & HUMOUR

CHANAKYA



VISIONARIES

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- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

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